



Germany: Facts & Figures March 2008

A monthly overview of current opinion data and statistical information in the Federal Republic of Germany

Politics

If Bundestag elections would have been held on March 30, the CDU/CSU would have received 38% of the vote, the SPD 28%, the Green Party 9%, the FDP 11%, the Left Party 12%, and all other parties combined 2%. (GMS. 03/28/08)

74% of Germans say President Horst Köhler should get a second term. (Forsa. Bild, 03/21/08)

52% of Germans said other parties should not cooperate with the Left Party. Following the recent confusion in the SPD, only 2% of Germans said they believe SPD Chairman Kurt Beck is able to resolve Germany's problems. However, 49% said Beck should remain SPD leader. (Forsa. Major papers, 03/05/08)

Economy

Germany's jobless rate declined to 8.4% in March (8.6% in February) as an economic upswing continued to support the labor market. A total of 3.5 million people were registered as jobless last month -- 110,000 fewer than in February, and 617,000 fewer than a year earlier. (Federal Employment Agency. Major papers, 04/01/08)

The consumer price index for Germany in March 2008 is expected to rise by 3.1% on March 2007 (February 2008: +2.8%). The high rate of price increase is influenced by price rises for food and non-alcoholic beverages as well as for mineral oil products. (Federal Statistical Office. 03/28/08)

The public budgets in Germany spent an average EUR 4,700 for the education of one pupil at public schools in 2005. While EUR 5,100 was spent per pupil at schools of general education, the amount totaled EUR 3,500 per pupil at vocational schools. The expenditure per pupil included personnel costs, continuous expenditure on material and equipment and investment expenditure at public schools. (Federal Statistical Office. 03/19/08)

In 2007, wine imports to Germany increased 4.8% compared to 2006. A total of 1.3 billion liters of wine were imported, an increase by 59 million liters. Wines were imported mostly from Italy (507 million liters), France (219 million liters) and Spain (199 million liters). Wines from outside of Europe are also becoming increasingly popular. In 2007, 63 million liters of wine (+38%) were imported from Chile, 58 million liters (+50.9%) from South Africa, 46 million liters (-0.5%) from the United States and 45 million liters (+13.5%) from Australia. (Federal Office for Statistics, 03/14/08)

The German economy is slowing down. While the Institute for World Economy (IfW) upholds its 2008 forecast of 1.9% of growth, it lowered its 2009 forecast from 1.6% to 1.2%. The Munich-based ifo institute predicts an annual growth potential of 1.5% over the next four years. (Major papers. 03/14/08)

Despite the strong euro, German exports increased 3.8% in January to 84.4 billion euros. (Federal Office for Statistics. Major papers, 03/11/08)

56% of German companies that have business in the U.S. plan to massively increase their production in the United States due to the dollar's current weakness. (Handelsblatt, 03/11/08)

Society

On average among all European countries polled, 62% favor closer European-American relations. This includes large majorities of Poles (77%), Germans (75%), Irish (70%), and Spaniards (67%). More modest majorities of Turks (53%) and Britons (51%) favor closer relations. Only a minority (39%) of the French favor closer relations, while a modest majority (53%) is opposed. Most Canadians (61%) favor closer European-American relations as well. 91% of Americans favor closer relations with Europe. (World Public Opinion Poll. 03/18/08)

17 million patients were treated on a full-time in-patient basis in hospitals in 2006. Heart failure (317,000 cases) was the main reason for hospitalization, followed by the heart disease Angina pectoris (301,000) and by mental and behavioral disorders due to use of alcohol (299,000). (Federal Statistical Office. 03/06/08)

Abortions in Germany decreased by 2.4% in 2007, compared to the number for 2006. (Federal Statistical Office. 03/05/08)

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